

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 118240

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 BNDD-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-12 NSC-10

SCI-06 OMB-01 DODE-00 AID-20 IGA-02 /107 R

DRAFTED BY EA/ TB: JBDEXTER: GEMARTIN: FMK

6/ 73 EXT. 23698

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AID - MR. WILLIAMS

AID - MS. WAMPLER

CIA - MR. ELLWANGER

S/ NM - MR. LAWRENCE

TREASURY - MR. BACH

----- 120676

P 181939 Z JUN 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY RANGOON PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 118240

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, BM

SUBJ: NARCOTICS: EQUIPMENT NEGOTIATIONS

REFS: A. RANGOON 1373

B. STATE 88724

C. RANGOON 1366

D. RANGOON 1365

E. RANGOON 1338

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM GODLEY AND HANDLEY

1. IT IS MATTER OF PRIORITY THAT BURMESE ENFORCE-
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 118240

MENT EFFORT AGAINST NARCOTICS TRAFFIC BE UPGRADED BY EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE. BURMESE RESOURCES ARE PATENTLY INADEQUATE. PROPOSED UN PROGRAM ENVISAGES NO ASSISTANCE IN ENFORCEMENT.

2. WE ARE ENCOURAGED THEREFORE BY GUB DESIRE TO RESUME NARCOTICS ASSISTANCE NEGOTIATIONS. IN YOUR DISCUSSIONS WITH PYI SOE, YOU SHOULD TELL HIM THAT WASHINGTON IS PLEASED WITH INCREASED GUB ACTION AGAINST TRAFFICKERS AND REFINERIES AND THAT RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AS REPORTED REFS C- E ARE MOST GRATIFYING. WE ARE WILLING TO CONSIDER ANY SUGGESTIONS THEY MAY HAVE AS TO HOW WE COULD PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO MAKE THEIR EFFORTS MORE EFFECTIVE.

3. IN VIEW OF CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF BURMA TO ILLEGAL OPIUM SUPPLY SITUATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND POSSIBLY ELSEWHERE, WE ARE PREPARED TO GIVE EVERY CONSIDERATION TO ANY PROPOSALS OF WAYS IN WHICH WE CAN BE OF ASSISTANCE TO THE GUB . YOUR CONTINUED COMMENTS ON AND CRITIQUE OF THE FORTHCOMING BURMESE PROPOSALS WILL BE OF MUCH ASSISTANCE IN OUR DELIBERATIONS.

4. AS STATED IN PARA 1 REF B, WE ARE MORE INTERESTED IN RESULTS ACHIEVABLE FROM GUB PROPOSALS FOR ASSISTANCE THAN IN SETTING ADVANCE FUNDING LIMITATIONS AND PERFORMANCE CONDITIONS. WE DO NOT FEEL LIMITED BY OR COMMITTED TO LAST YEAR' S PROGRAM AND DO NOT WANT TO SPECIFY AVAILABLE RESOURCES UNTIL WE SEE WHAT THE GUB HAS IN MIND. WE DO NOT WANT A PROGRAM THAT COULD BE CONSTRUED AS A MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN DISGUISE -- AS LAST YEAR' S GUB REQUEST SEEMED TO BE. ANY BURMESE REQUEST SHOULD BE DEFENSIBLE ON THE BASIS OF ITS UTILITY IN NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION, ALTHOUGH WE WOULD ACCEPT THE FACT THAT THE EQUIPMENT MIGHT ALSO BE EMPLOYED ON OCCASION FOR OTHER PURPOSES. TIME PHASING IS ENTIRELY DEPENDENT ON WHAT EQUIPMENT IS TO BE PROVIDED. WE WILL GIVE URGENT ATTENTION TO ANY REQUESTS AND PROVIDE A LEAD TIME ESTIMATE.

5. WE ARE NOT COMMITTED TO PORTER AIRCRAFT PER SE -- ALTHOUGH TECHNICAL VIEW HERE IS THAT STOL ARE STILL MOST FEASIBLE AND EFFECTIVE CONSIDERING TYPE OF OPERATION.

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 118240

TIONS -- (INCLUDING CLIMATIC AND ALTITUDINAL FACTORS) CONTEMPLATED AND BURMESE MAINTENANCE CAPABILITIES. WE HOPE FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH GUB WILL CLARIFY PYI SOE' S COMMENT THAT PORTERS ARE " TOO LIGHT". IF PROBLEM IS LACK OF GUB FAMILIARITY WITH PORTERS, YOU MIGHT NOTE THAI EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AIRCRAFT AND SUGGEST POSSIBILITY OF BURMESE REVIEWING CHARACTERISTICS WITH RTG. GUB NEED

NOT LIMIT ITSELF TO AIRCRAFT. WE WOULD ALSO BE WILLING TO
CONSIDER ITEMS SUCH AS COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT AND
VEHICLES.

6. WE CONTINUE TO VIEW BURMA AS A CRITICAL FACTOR IN
SOUTHEAST ASIA' S NARCOTICS PROBLEM AND WE RELY ON THE
GUB TO CONTINUE AGGRESSIVE AND EFFECTIVE ACTION IN THIS
FIELD. IN THIS CONNECTION WE WILLING CONSIDER ANY GUB
PROPOSAL AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE. ROGERS

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